

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 0556

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, TW
SUBJECT: TRIAL AND SENTENCING OF WANG HSING-NAN

REF: (A) STATE 20001, (B) TAIPEI 527, AND PREVIOUS

1. ALL JANUARY 27 LOCAL NEWSPAPERS CARRIED ACCOUNTS OF THE JANUARY 26 TRIAL BY A MILITARY COURT AND SENTENCING TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT OF WANG HSING-NAN FOR "ATTEMPTING TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT BY ILLEGAL MEANS AND STARTING TO TAKE ACTION." ACCOUNTS OF THE TRIAL TRACE WANG'S MEETING AND ASSOCIATION WITH "TERRORIST ELEMENTS" CHANG TSAN-HUNG (1728/3605/3163 OVER 6855) AND LIN CHEN-CHANG (2651/2182/2490), WHO "ARE RESIDING IN THE US," WANG'S JOINING THEIR TERRORIST ORGANIZATION IN 1974, CHANG'S INSTRUCTIONS TO HIM ON MAILING PARCEL BOMBS TO CREATE SOCIAL DISTURBANCE AND PANIC, AND WANG'S RETURN TO TAIWAN WHERE HE CONSTRUCTED AND SENT THE PACKAGE BOMBS TO GOVERNOR HSIEH AND TWO OTHERS.

2. ACCORDING TO THE LOCA PRESS ACCOUNTS, THE (UNIDENTIFIED) TERRORIST GROUP ORGANIZED BY CHANG AND OTHERS AND TO WHICH WANG BELONGED HAS ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES AGAINST ITS OWN COUNTRY FROM A BASE IN A FOREIGN LAND. WITH WANG NOW
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SENTENCED, THE PRESS SAID, THE "MASTERMINDS" OF THE TERRORIST GROUP, CHANG, LIN AND SEVERAL OTHERS, "ARE ALSO KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN PLACED ON THE WANTED LIST."
(COMMENT: THE LINK BETWEEN WANG, CHANG, AND LIN WITH THE US, AS THEIR FOREIGN RESIDENCE, IS EVIDENT THROUGHOUT THE PRESS ACCOUNTS, LEAVING THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT THE US IS HARBORING TERRORISTS WHO ARE DIRECTING THEIR ACTIVITIES

AGAINST THE ROC. FULL TEXT OF CHINA POST ACCOUNT IS BEING SENT BY SEPTTEL.)

3. LOCAL PRESS ACCOUNTS OF WANG'S TRIAL ARE UNPRECEDENTEDLY DETAILED, WITH SOME CHINESE-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS EVEN CARRYING PORTIONS OF THE TRANSCRIPT FROM THE TRIAL. WANG'S RELATIVES AND AT LEAST SOME REPORTERS WERE APPARENTLY ALLOWED TO ATTEND THE TRIAL. PRESS ACCOUNTS EMPHASIZED THAT WANG'S TRIAL WAS CONDUCTED IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH LAW, OPENLY AND FAIRLY. ACCOUNTS OF THE TRIAL ALSO NOTE THAT THE MILITARY PROSECUTOR STIPULATED DURING THE TRIAL THAT ALTHOUGH WANG'S CRIMES MADE HIM LIABLE FOR THE PENALTY (I.E., THE DEATH SENTENCE) SET FORTH IN THE FIRST CLAUSE OF ARTICLE TWO OF THE STATUTE GOVERNING THE PENALTIES FOR SEDITIOUS ACTIVITIES, ALL FACTORS (HE SPECIFICALLY CITED WANG'S MAKING ONLY THREE BOMBS WHEN HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE SIX AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO IMPLICATE CHANG AND LIN) SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. HE REPORTEDLY URGED THAT THE MILITARY COURT REDUCE WANG'S SENTENCE (FROM DEATH TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT).

4. FROM THE ABOVE IT APPEARS THAT BOTH DURING THE TRIAL AND IN THE HANDLING OF PUBLICITY, THE GROC WAS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ABOUT ITS IMAGE AND HAS MADE SERIOUS EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH THAT IT ACTED IN A JUST AND HUMANE MANNER AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH HUMAN RIGHTS.

5. BASED ON OUR INITIAL EXAMINATION OF THE CHINESE-LANGUAGE PRESS, IT APPEARS THAT THE QUESTION OF HOW WANG WAS APPREHENDED WAS NOT PUBLICLY DISCLOSED. HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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AWARE OF ANY EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE MRS. WANG'S CLAIM (REF A) THAT WANG WAS "KIDNAPPED". IF ASSUMING THAT THE TZU LI WAN PAO ACCOUNT OF WANG'S ARREST (REF B) AND THE RUMORS WE HAVE HEARD IN SUPPORT OF THIS ACCOUNT ARE ESSENTIALLY CORRECT, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE QUESTION OF THE LEGALITY OF WANG'S APPREHENSION IS PRIMARILY ONE OF WHAT RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS A GOVERNMENT HAS VIS-A-VIS PASSENGERS IN AN AIRPORT INTERNATIONAL TRANSIT LOUVE LOCATED ON ITS TERRITORY.

6. AS FOR MRS. WANG'S STATEMENT THAT WANG MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO HOSPITAL BECAUSE OF INJURIES SUSTAINED DURING TORTURE BY ROC AUTHORITIS, WE WOULD NOTE THAT JANUARY 28 LOCAL PRESS CARRIED TWO PICTURES OF WANG AT THE JANUARY 27 TRIAL, ONE OF WHICH ALSO GIVES A PARTIAL VIEW OF TRIAL OBSERVERS (SOME OF WHOM APPEAR TO BE WANG'S RELATIVES). WHILE THESE PICTURES CANNOT BE TAKEN AS EVIDENCE CONTRADICTING MRS. WANG'S ALLEGATIONS, THEY DO INDICATE THAT ON THE MORNING OF JANUARY 27 WANG WAS NOT IN THE HOSPITAL. UNGER

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